

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 03427 251449Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 H-01 PRS-01 /071 W
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R 251410Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7528
US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 390
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORC, UNSC, NG, NI
SUBJECT: NIGER/NIGERIA COMPETITION FOR SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT

REF: (A) NIAMEY 3402, (B) STATE 148710

1. BRITISH AMBASSADOR WRIGHT (PROTECT WHO MET WITH PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE ON SATURDAY, JULY 23, RELATED THAT PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE IS CONVINCED THAT US ENCOURAGEMENT HAS MOTIVATED NIGERIANS TO PRESS FOR SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT IN COMPETITION WITH NIGER.

THIS CONVICTION IS BASED ON REPORTING RECEIVED FROM NIGER UN OFFICE. HE IS EQUALLY CONVINCED THAT NIGERIANS WOULD NOT PRESS FOR SEAT WITHOUT UNITED STATES BACKING.

2. THIS CLARIFIES DJERMAKOYE'S PQJLLING INTERJECTION OF THIS INFORMATION DURING OUR LAST CONVERAATION (43*A) AND HIS POINTED REFERENCE TO OUR NOTE WHICH HAD BEEN PRESENTED TO GON PER INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN REF.B. DJERMAKOYE'S COMMENT ABOUT THE DANGERS SUCH A MOVE POSES FOR OAU MAY HAVE BEEN INTENDED TO BE A LEIURE SOFTLY STATED. INCIDENTALLY,
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MY BRITISH COLLZEGUE AGREES THAT NIGERIAN POSITION MUST ENGAGE THE OAU AND NOT NIGER, THEREFORE PROVOKING THE OAU DISRUPTIONS FEARED BY NIGER.

3. IN ABSENCE OF INFORMATION TO CONTRARY, I MUST ASSUME:
(1) THAT NIGERIA HAS TRANSLATED A FRIENDLY US ACQUIESCENCE PRIOR TO LIBREVILLE MEETING INTO CONTINUED UNITED STATES

BACKING CONTRA NIGER; (2) THAT THERE HAS NEVER BEEN US INTENT TO SUPPORT NIGERIA IN A CAMPAIGN TO RAVERSE A DECISION OF OAU; AND (3) THAT US WOULD EXTEND SAME FRIENDLY QUIESCENCE TO NIGER AS OAU-ENDORSED CANDIDATE FOR FCURITY COUNCIL SEAT.

4. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL--INDEED NECESSARY--TO HAVE AN IMMEDIATE CLARIFICATION OF US POSITION REGARDING: (1) NIGER'S OAU-SUPPORTED CANDIDACY; (2) NIGERIA'S SYRIGNT EFFORTS TO REPLACE NIGER AS THE CANDIDATE/AND UNLESS DEPARTMENT DEEMS OTHERWISE, A REASONABLE EXPLANATION THAT CAN BE OFFERED TO NIGER OFFICIALS ON AN IF ASKED BASIS. I RECON3ND THAT USUN FIND AN OPPORTUNITY TO CLARIFY US POSITION WITH THE NIGER PERMANENT REP UNLESS THE US IS, IN FACT, SUPPORTING NIGERIA'S CURRENT CAMPAIGN AS HE ALLEGEDLY REPORTS. JAMES

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 25-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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